

News Release — Missouri Veterans Commission

*For Immediate Release
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Governor Announces Commission Appointments

Governor Blunt's Office announced the appointment of S. Lee Kling and the re-appointment of Joseph J. Frank to the Missouri Veterans Commission. Mr. Kling was confirmed by the second regular session of the 93rd General Assembly of Missouri on March 9, 2006 before the Missouri Senate and will begin serving for a term ending November 2, 2009, and until his successor is duly appointed and qualified. Mr. Kling replaces Emmett W. Fairfax, whose term expired. Mr. Frank will begin serving for a full term ending November 2, 2009.

Mr. Kling served in the U.S. Army and serves as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army. He previously served as Chairman of the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission and is currently serving as Special Advisor to the Governor of Missouri. Mr. Kling resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Joseph J. Frank has served on the Missouri Veteran Commission from 1994 to 2002 and was re-appointed in 2005 to present, he serves as Vice Chairman on the Commission since 2005. Mr. Frank is a U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran from Sunset Hills, Missouri.

The Missouri Veterans Commission was established in 1989 as a state agency within the Department of Public Safety. The Commission is comprised of five commissioners, who are veterans of the U. S. Armed Forces, nominated by state veterans' organizations for appointment by the Governor and confirmation by the Senate.

The Missouri Veterans Commission is responsible for the operation of all statewide programs offering benefits and services to Missouri veterans and their eligible dependents.

- The **Service to Veterans Program** maintains Veterans Service Offices throughout the state to assist and counsel veterans in filing benefits claims with the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- The **Veterans Homes Program** is comprised of seven, long-term, skilled nursing facilities for veterans throughout the state. These are located at Cameron, Cape Girardeau, Mexico, Mt. Vernon, St. James, St. Louis and Warrensburg.
- The **State Veterans Cemetery System** is comprised of four operational cemeteries located in Higginsville, Springfield, Bloomfield and Jacksonville. An additional cemetery is currently being planned at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

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